

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## ***The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratory Contest Held in City Hall Council Chambers***

**JERSEY CITY** – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the Municipal Council, and the Division of Cultural Affairs will host the final round of the **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Contest** from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** at **City Hall Council Chambers**, 280 Grove Street.

The top orators will be chosen during the event, which is sponsored by Bank of America and is part of the City's **Black History Month** festivities.

"Each year, the students continue to impress the community and their peers with inspiring perspectives on Dr. King's example," said **Mayor Healy**. "It is my hope that, as a result of the oratory competition, these young students will embrace the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognize his continued influence on our culture, society and the political landscape."

The contestants, who are broken down into two grade categories – the grade 3 to 5 group and the grade 6 to 8 group – must memorize and present an original work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which is judged by representatives of the business community.

Each year, public, private and charter schools across the city are notified of the contest, and asked to hold an internal selection process in which they send two students to compete in each grade category. The oration must be memorized and no longer than 10 minutes. Each presentation will be judged according to length, clarity, memorization, and overall presentation.

Approximately 70 students will participate in the contest from the following schools: P.S. #23, P.S. #20, Academy I, P.S. #6, St. Josephs, Resurrection, P.S. #16, P.S.#14, P.S.#2, P.S.#27, Golden Door Charter School, P.S. #25, Sacred Heart, M.S. #7, St. Patrick's, M.S.#40, P.S. #11, M.S., P.S. #8, P.S. #9, St. Aloysius, P.S.#28, and P.S.#38, of which twelve students are chosen to compete in the final round.

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Judging the event are Cheryl D.B. Murphy, President of the Jersey City West Indian Carnival; Carmen Flores, Committee Member of the Philippine-American Friendship Day Committee; Tish Krasnyk, Advertising Manager; and Omar Perez, Mayor's Aide. Deputy Mayor Kabili Tayari will emcee the event and Mayor Healy will present the awards.

The following prizes will be awarded by Mayor Healy to the top students in each of the two categories:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize -- \$500 savings bond

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize -- \$250 savings bond

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize -- \$100 savings bond

Honorable Mention -- a book of Martin Luther King's original works

All of the awards are provided by Bank of America, who has sponsored the event for the past seven years.

The Oratory Contest is one element of the Division of Cultural Affairs' month-long tribute to African-American history and culture as the City celebrates Black History Month. Other events include the **Black History Month Group Show** being held through the end of the month in City Hall's John W. Meagher Rotunda Gallery.

For more information, contact the **Division of Cultural Affairs** at **201-547-6921**.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///**